Sea Turtle Management

National Dredging Meeting
Sea Turtle Management Update
June 13-14, 2006

Geographic Regions with Associated Channel Dredging and Sea Turtle Monitoring

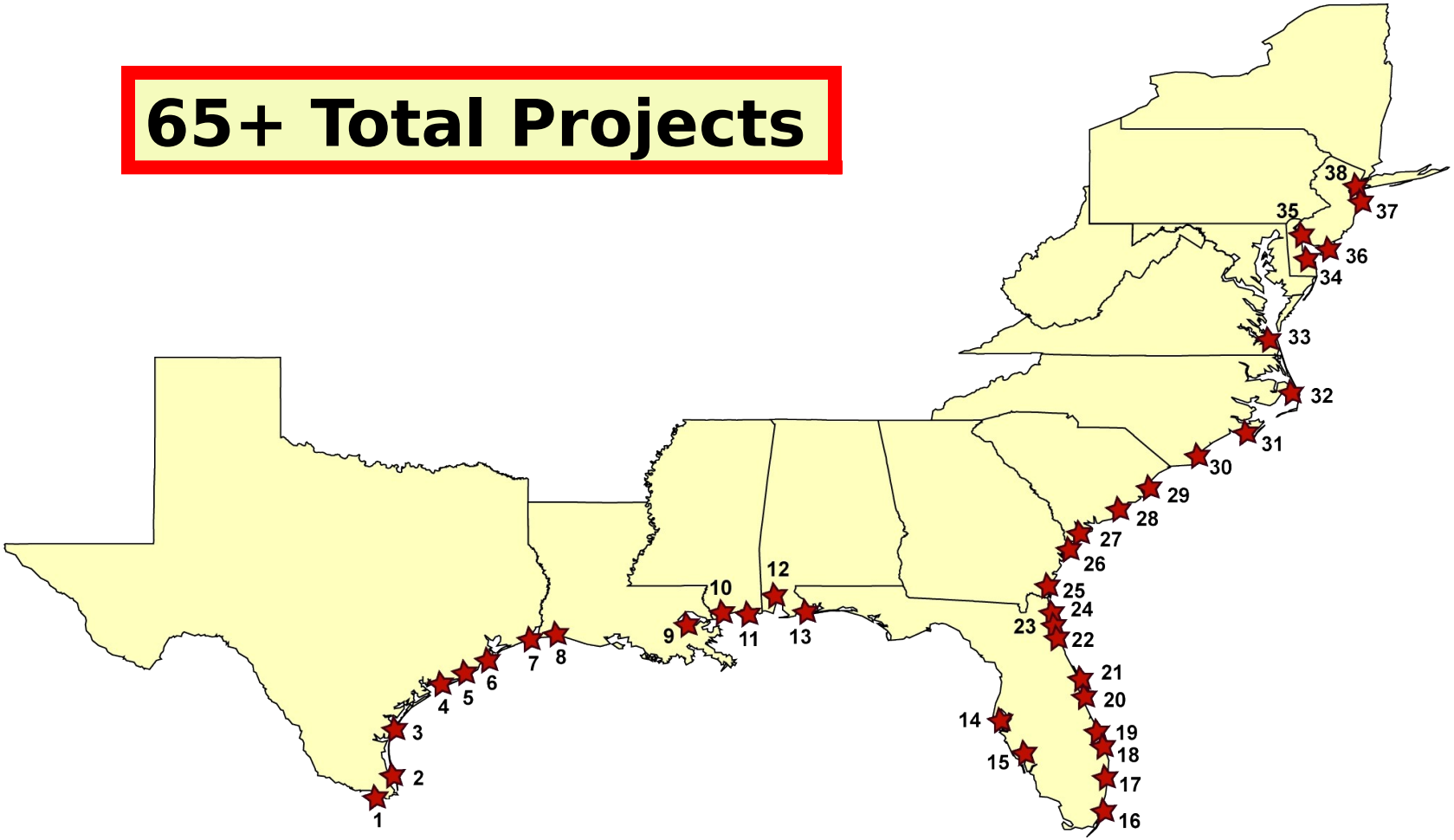
North Atlantic
NAD

South Atlantic
SAD
Atlantic RBO

Gulf of Mexico
SWD,MVD,SAD
GOM RBO

Navigation Projects With Sea Turtle Monitoring

65+ Total Projects



Scope of USACE Hopper Dredging

- 65+ projects
- 11 Districts
- 4 Divisions
- 4 Corps Labs
- HQUSACE
- 3 NMFS Regions
- NMFS Headquarters
- 15 States
- 4 Observer Companies
- 23 Hopper Dredges
- 6+ Dredging Companies
- US Navy, Air Force
- Municipalities
- Other Stakeholders

USACE Support Functions

Hopper Dredging and Sea Turtle Activities

- Planning
- Contracting
- Regulatory
- Construction
- Operations -Navigation
- General Counsel
- HQUSACE
- Engineering Research Development Center (ERDC)

Industry Corps Hopper Dredged Management Group

(ICHDMG)

- ✓ **Industry Corps Partnership**
- ✓ **Industry Involvement**
- ✓ **Collaborative efforts**
- ✓ **Hopper Dredge Scheduling**

Sea Turtle Project Management Plan (PMP)

(PMP Approved by ICHDMG - March 2004)

24 Work Tasks

- Improve communications – 7
- Improve documentation of sea turtle/dredging data – 4
- Implement draghead modifications – 5
- Revise operational requirements for cleanup dredging – 1
- Provide additional contracting options - 1

Sea Turtle Project Management Plan (PMP) (Continued)

- **24 Work Tasks**
  - **Demonstrate hopper dredging in Canaveral Harbor – 1**
  - **Collect biological data - 3**
  - **Evaluate bed-levelers and alternative dredging concepts - 1**
  - **Funding and Cost Effectiveness - 1**

Improve Communications

(a) Re-establish Corps sea turtle coordinators team to provide continuity and communications.

Status: Task Completed-Documented

(b) Establish working group to address issues and prioritize tasks.

Status: Task Completed-Documented

(c) Reinitiate consultation-Gulf Region Biological Opinion (GRBO). **Status: Task Ongoing**

(d) Improve data collected during dredging post projects. **Status: Task Completed: documented**

http://el.erdc.usace.army.mil/seaturtles/index.cfm

Improve Communications (cont.)

(e) Analyze historical sea turtle data.

Status: Task Completed: documented

http://el.erdc.usace.army.mil/seaturtles/index.cfm

(f) Public outreach at National and International conferences. **Status: Task Completed : documented**

http://el.erdc.usace.army.mil/seaturtles/index.cfm

(g) Develop training resources that effectively guide operation of draghead/deflector equipment setup.

Status: Task Completed need documentation

Improve Documentation of Sea Turtle/Dredging Data

(a) Establish/maintain online Sea Turtle protection and data warehouse.

Status: Task Completed-Documented

http://el.erdc.usace.army.mil/seaturtles/index.cfm

(b) Guidance on data collection protocols for turtle observers aboard dredges and trawlers.

Status: Task Completed-Need documentation

http://el.erdc.usace.army.mil/seaturtles/index.cfm

(c) Coordinate field testing of Silent Inspector (SI) instrumentation during hopper dredging project(s) with sea turtle concerns

Status: Task ongoing

Implement Draghead Modifications

(a) Evaluate cost–benefits of draghead modifications.
Status: Task completed–need documentation

(b) Performance specifications for improved draghead modifications. Status: Need for task under review

(c) Investigate draghead modifications based on performance specifications.
Status: Task under review-need documentation

(d) Investigate draghead modifications specific to individual dredges based on performance specifications.
Status: Task under review-need documentation

(e) Test draghead modifications at selected field sites

Address Operational Requirements For Cleanup Dredging

(a) Develop innovative ways and contractual methods to reduce dredging during cleanup phase.

Status: Task under review–need documentation

Evaluate Other Contract Options

(a) Evaluate innovative contractual methods to reduce turtle takes.

Status: Task under review-need documentation

Demonstrate Hopper Dredging Outside of Normal Dredging Windows

(a) Conduct field demonstration-Canaveral Harbor/Key West.

Status: Task Completed- need documentation

Collect Biological Data

(a) Develop sampling protocols during relocation trawling activities.

Status: Task Completed- Need documentation

(b) Address genetic sampling during sea turtle relocations.

Status: Task being addressed through GRBO revisions

(c) Identify biological information gaps – develop field studies to target hopper-dredged channels with least known sea turtle data.

Status: Task ongoing –need documentation

Evaluate Bed-Levelers and Alternative Dredging Concepts

(a) Evaluate environmental impacts of bed-levelers and other alternative dredging concepts.

Status: Task ongoing – need documentation

Funding and Cost Effectiveness

(a) Evaluate work tasks relative to funding source, efficiency and cost effectiveness.

Status: Being addressed through each task –need documentation

Sea Turtle PMP Work Tasks Summary-June 2006

PMP Schedule

- Document all tasks-end of FY06
- Prepare summary report - end of FY06
- Place summary report on ERDC's sea turtle webpage *http://el.erdc.usace.army.mil/seaturtles/index.cfm*

Knowledge Management and Sharing

- **USACE Threatened Species :**
http://el.erdc.usace.army.mil/teesp/index.cfm

USACE Sea Turtle Data Warehouse:
http://el.erdc.usace.army.mil/seaturtles/index.cfm

- **USACE Planning Community-Endangered Species:**
http://www.sad.usace.army.mil/protected%20resources

QUESTIONS?